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ADVOCATE OF PEACE AND ARBITRATION.

BOSTON, MARCH AND APRIL, 1890.

R. B. HOWARD, EDITOR.

—Peace does not imply cowardice. A Christian is not a poltroon. Christ was not a coward. Paul was not a poltroon. A manly Christian fears nothing but to do wrong. To him death is not "the king of terrors." The grave can claim no victory. Having done all, the Christian "stands." He fights a fight of faith. He wields the sword of the Spirit. He approaches even God with humble boldness in prayer. The fear of man to him is not a snare.

AFRICAN RUM TRADE.

It is an open question whether the slave-trade or the trade in rum and fire-arms promises to do the more to degrade Africa. Indeed, trustworthy authorities report that the degradation caused by the trade in liquors and fire-arms is doing its worst to provide the conditions under which the slave-trade will perennially flourish.

COST OF EXPEDITIONS IN WAR AND PEACE.

The London *Times* correspondent at Cairo says Mr. Stanley tells him that the distance which he has travelled on foot in the last expedition is 4400 miles and 1000 miles in conveyances of one kind or another. The expedition has occupied three years, and rescued 300 persons at a cost of less than \$150,000. Lord Napier's Abyssinian expedition occupied six months, rescued eight persons and cost \$40,000,000.

EXCERPTS FROM RECENT LETTERS.

A gentleman of Central Massachusetts, alike distinguished in literature and earnestness in reform efforts writes: "I need not say how satisfactory is the admirable conduct of the *ADVOCATE OF PEACE*. Your running Itinerary (or Diary) is just the thing, brief and breezy. The *ADVOCATE* fills what otherwise would be a gap in our American circle of charities.

A former State official and a leading lawyer in one of the Maine counties writes, in enclosing the annual fee of two dollars: "I regret my inability to make it fifty dollars, but hope to do it another year. The influence of your teaching is already leavening the public mind, and the more advanced intelligence of the age joins in the prayer of Grant, as, looking back over the waste of war, he exclaimed, 'Let us have Peace.'"

A PEACE SONG BOOK.

Mrs. Ida Whipple Benham of Mystic, Ct., has kindly consented to aid the American and London Peace Societies in their effort to publish a book of songs and hymns of Peace, suitable for public occasions. Will any one who feels interested in such a publication communicate suggestions or send original or select poems, from which the editors may collate, to the Secretary of the American Peace Society, Boston, Mass. There is certainly some peace poetry to be found amid the multitude of war lyrics and poems which abound in all languages.

THE POPE AND PEACE.

If recent telegraphic dispatches can be relied upon the Catholic Pope and the Protestant Emperor have come together. They have met to conciliate the overwhelming power of organized labor, which if it is not heeded threatens civilization with disaster. Prince Bismarck makes overtures to his old enemy, Dr. Windthorst, the leader of Catholic Germany. The Emperor receives and dines with Jules Simon, a *Frenchman* (!) and the head of the French labor delegation that has gone to Berlin on the invitation of the Prussian Government to confer on questions of mutual interest. But most remarkable and encouraging event of all—Pope Leo XIII seizes the occasion of a common cause and a common platform and a common danger to advocate peace and to point out what we have so long insisted on, namely, that simultaneous disarmament is a necessity for Europe. He is said to have actually uttered the sentiment that the immense armies of Europe are anti-Christian! His autograph letter to Emperor William is quoted as alleging that nations must adopt the principles of Christianity.

"If the millions of armed men who trample upon the bread trays of the poor were stripped of the uniforms (which they never earned, but which were paid for by the taxes laid upon industrious and commercial men) and set to work, creating wealth, a great deal of the present distress would disappear." One nation dare not begin to disarm before another. The Catholic Church in the person of its "Holy Father" makes this proposition. The masses in Protestant churches should at once join in the cry; "Disarm!" Let local, national, denominational and ecclesiastical jealousies not prevent union in a good cause. There will be time and opportunity enough to assert our antagonisms. Let us now emphasize our agreement. In answer to the prayer which Protestant and Catholic alike offer, "*Give us peace in our time O Lord,*" let all Christians unite to demand of rulers the reduction of armies, and in all disputes an appeal to reason in place of force.

But if Europe should disarm to prevent national bankruptcies, relieve local pauperism and avoid the threat of military domination, why should America arm? Why repeat the extravagance, the folly and the wickedness, only to repent in future dust and ashes? Push home the question. It is seriously proposed to expend \$349,000,000 on a navy, \$260,000,000 on coast defences, requiring for ships and forts 150,000 men! Nonsense!

BISMARCK.

The retirement of Prince Bismarck from the government of Germany is a significant event, but less important than it would have been a few years ago. His policy has been a success in unifying disrupted and antagonistic German States, in securing the supremacy of Prussia, in humbling France, in glorifying the German army and making himself the most powerful man of our time. But as infirmities of early life return to plague old age when it can least bear them, so the early mistakes of the now aged Bismarck will hardly fail to trouble him and his country.

France is in chronic anger over the seizure, without consent of their inhabitants, of her two fairest and richest provinces; that she deserved to be mulct in money and territory and was too weak at the time to resist it, does not add to her present contentment. The liberty-loving

Germans, who for the present are politically allied with the Socialists have been too much brow-beaten and forced to reluctant submission to do other than protest—a protest which will have the more courage in it now the feared Premier is out of office. The Emperor may secure for himself the youthful enthusiasm of the nation, but he has no personal history, can have no such minister as Bismarck, and must either conciliate or fight his opponents at home and abroad. The Labor Congress looks like conciliation. The dismissal of a single regiment of his army would open the way towards mutual disarmament and thus avert the danger from France. The latter he is not likely to do. He loves power, and power is in armies and guns. Hence now that the steady, if heavy hand of Bismarck is withdrawn, the Emperor will not find a bed of roses. An imperious and exacting old man will not annoy him. But “uneasy lies the head that wears a crown.” That of the young Emperor will not be an exception.

INCREASE OF THE NAVY.

A proposition is before the United States Congress to appropriate some hundreds of millions to increase the navy. Why?

1. “That we may gratify national pride and boast how strong we are as compared with other nations.” The reason is too absurd to reply to.

2. “As a measure of *defence*.” Against whom? Who wants to fight the United States? Whose interest is it to make war upon us? What nation has wrongs to avenge? To whom do we owe any money? Whose territory have we stolen? Whose fish and seals do we want besides our own? Will war determine what rightly belongs to either party? No nation has the smallest motive to shell New York or rob the banks of Boston, or forage on the plains of Illinois or seize the mines of Colorado.

3. “To guard our commerce.” Who is disposed to raid it?

4. “To enforce our laws against smuggling.” If there is need of a coast police, the need is for comparatively cheap and swift revenue cutters and not cumbersome and costly ironclads, which move like snails. Each one of these will cost from \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000.

Why not have a great navy?

1. The money for which the people are taxed can be better employed. How?

I. In public buildings, solid, enduring, convenient, in every place which needs one.

II. In clearing rivers, building levees and making water transportation safe and cheap.

III. In constructing or buying or controlling telegraphs and railroads for the benefit of the people.

IV. In promoting popular education as by the Blair Bill and similar measures.

V. In fostering a merchants’ marine which shall restore our prestige on the ocean and give employment to our sea-faring men and secure for ship-builders the pay now sent abroad.

Why not have a great navy?

1. Because the ships proposed will probably prove useless: (1) on account of superior inventions now in progress; (2) by reason of disuse, such as peace will compel. The proposed vessels would rust and rot in

idleness like the old men-of-war, now rusting and rotting in our harbors and navy yards.

2. A great navy will necessitate an army of sailors and marines to man it; millions of money annually to keep it in repair and run it generally. A great land army will certainly be raised *pari passu* if a great navy is.

3. Great armaments are provocatives of war. They encourage diplomatists to carelessness and boldness in unjust demands and foolish threats. Like the teeth of a growling dog or the curses and doubled fists of a bully, armaments provoke attack.

4. Once entered on a career of rivalry, the United States will be ashamed to pause or go back, and will strive to equal or surpass her compeers, the greatest nations in military power. This will necessitate taxation, conscription and debt. Every year with us will witness something parallel with the military madness or drunkenness of France or Germany, which go staggering forward at a run because they dare not walk.

5. The unrepugnant and anti-democratic organization of a military sort will threaten peaceful citizens, civic order and invite or prosecute revolution.

Why have a great navy?

1. “To give employment to laborers?” We have already suggested work enough for all.

2. “To get rid of our surplus income.” Reduce the taxes and get rid of the income. Make the laborer pay less for his sugar, his tea, coffee and clothing. Abate the enormous income from whiskey by making its manufacture and sale for drinking purposes illegal.

In closing these suggestions, we may say that great coast fortifications such as are planned and proposed will require a regular army of 100,000 men, and an expenditure equal to that proposed for a great navy. We appeal from the pride of show to the common sense of the American people. We warn politicians that farmers’ alliances and mechanics, shopmen and merchants are opposed to augmenting military expenses. They are jealous of the tyrannous nature of military laws and customs. They are afraid of military oppression. They like fair wages and cheap living. The farmers want to sell their products. They want cheap transportation. A revolution in politics will turn out of office those who will not avow their principles and serve their convictions.

Lastly, we wish we could point to the Church of Christ as a power to be respected by politicians. Its power is indeed vast but largely latent. The Christian people should stand together against the schemes of newspapers and politicians to change our peaceful land into a great monster of military force, contrary to the very spirit of the Kingdom of Christ.

ABOLISHING LIBERTY.

The London *Herald* remarks upon the greater freedom enjoyed by foreign visitors in France, than in Germany. But France is imitating Germany’s example. She is restricting the liberty of foreigners in her dominions and imprisons some of her returning citizens, like the young Duke of Orleans. It is difficult for Americans to conceive even, that liberty in those countries is so dangerous to public order as to require constant, repressive and coercive measures. They seem to us like great military camps or prisons of State, where the law abiding citizen or foreigner suffers, because of the lawless. Bad laws, however, provoke lawlessness.